

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00220 121138Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /056 W
-----127641 121142Z /20
P R 121050Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9268
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO USUN NEW YORK 764

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0220

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS FROM CHARGE

TOKYO FOR AA/ASIA/AID ASST ADMINISTRATION J.H. SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CE

SUBJ: USG REPRESENTATION AT FEB. 4 SRI LANKA PRESIDENTIAL
INAUGURATION CEREMONIES

REF: 76 COLOMBO 5072 LIMDIS

1. IN DISCUSSIONS FOREIGN MINISTER HAMEED HAD WITH T.P. THORNTON (NSC STAFF) DURING LATTER'S VISIT HERE, HAMEED EMPHASIZED SIGNIFICANCE OF 4-6 FEBRUARY PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL CEREMONIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WILL BE A RAJA PERAHERA (ROYAL PROCESSION) IN KANDY EVENING OF 5 FEBRUARY. LAST TIME SIMILAR PERAHERA WAS IN 1954 WHEN QUEEN ELIZABETH VISITED.

2. HAMEED SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES NOT BEING INVITED, HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS FROM THE U.S. WOULD BE WARMLY WELCOMED, AND APPRECIATED. THORNTON AND CHARGE RESPONDED THAT IMPORTANCE OF 4-6 FEB CEREMONIES ALREADY COMMUNICATED TO WASHINGTON. WE WOULD INFORM GSL PROMPTLY AS SOON AS
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NAMES MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE OF ANY US VIP REPRESENTATIVE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: I BELIEVE I AM REFLECTING AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS' JUDGEMENT TO NOW RECOMMEND THAT WE TAKE MORE ACTIVE VIEW OF WASHINGTON PARTICIPATION IN THESE CEREMONIES. UNLESS YOU HAVE ALREADY FIXED ON TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY TRAVELING IN AREA TO ADD COLOMBO TO ITINERARY, NOW FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE

WORTHWHILE TO HAVE SOMEONE TRAVEL HERE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. FOR TOKYO: WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE SULLIVAN CONSIDERING
EXTENDING SRI LANKA VISIT TO ATTEND PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION
CEREMONIES.
LEVIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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